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William Preston Davies

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THE FACT THAT PLAY-JUDGING is not an exact science is inherent in the nature of the subject and is apparent from the behavior alike of the general public and of dramatic critics. No two persons react precisely alike to the same play because standards of judgment are based in no small measure on individual training and temperament. Not all the dramatic critics in New York



W. P. Davies.

have voted Maxwell Anderson's "Winterset" the best play of the season, but a large majority of them have done so, and a plaque commemorating the awarding of the honor is to be presented to Mr. Anderson on the stage of the National theater in Washington next Friday night. The award is the first made by the recently organized New York Drama Critics Circle, 14 of whose 17 members voted for the Anderson play.

* * *

MAXWELL ANDERSON HAS had many evidences of understanding and appreciation since "What Price Glory", in which he and Laurence Stallings collaborated, made both playwrights famous. Two years ago the drama judges of the Pulitzer prize committee awarded first place to Anderson's "Mary of Scotland," but the general committee overruled this decision and awarded the prize to "Men in White." Last year his "Valley Forge" was prominently mentioned for first place, but the decision was given ultimately to "The Old Maid." It is no small achievement for an artist in a field of swiftly changing standards and demands to maintain his place, year after year, at or near the top, and Maxwell Anderson's North Dakota friends rejoice in his continued success.

* * *

THE AWARD CARRIED THE following citation:

"The Circle's decision is based on the conviction that in "Winterset" the author accomplished the notably difficult task of interpreting a valid and challenging con-

temporary theme dealing with the pursuit of human justice in terms of unusual poetic force, realizing a drama of rich meaning, and combining high literary distinction with compelling theatrical effect."

* * *

A NEW YORK MOTORIST had his driver's license taken from him in court the other day because of his abnormally low intelligence. On examination he failed to identify a sign reading "danger." He admitted that he could neither read or write. He did not know what his religion was. He was unable to name the president of the United States, the governor or the mayor. And he did not know in what state he lived. There are others who could not answer all of those questions. Probably most drivers could name the state in which they live, but a fellow may often be in doubt as to what state he is in at the moment.

* * *

BROOKLYN IS TO HAVE NO circus this year, according to a decision by the city's light commissioner. License for the big show was denied on the ground that safety of children and property would be endangered, not by the professional people with the circus, but by hangers-on who follow circuses. This will be the first time in 52 years that Brooklyn has had no circus.

* * *

YEARS AGO THE CIRCUS was denied a license in Grand Forks because its date conflicted with the fair date. So the big top was erected in East Grand Forks, and we all went to the show anyway.

* * *

DR. EINSTEIN DOES NOT play chess. He considers it too great a tax on the mind. This seems a singular attitude for a man who juggles with mathematics the way that Einstein does. His point, however, is that when he is not at work he wishes to relax, and chess requires concentration. He has played only a few games of chess in his life, and those in his boyhood. Great minds work in different ways. When Napoleon was planning a military campaign he found chess helpful to him.

* * *

ALEX M'KENZIE, once prominent in North Dakota politics, had a different system. He found that he could concentrate on political strategy while playing roulette.

A PICTURE IN A RECENTLY published book has for its amusing theme the fact that the boy portrayed has just had his milk pail



Davies

kicked over and its contents spilled all over him by the cow standing just behind him. The picture is excellent in design and drawing, and in many respects is true to nature, even to the one-legged stool made of a bit of board nailed across the top of a section of two - by - four.

One feature leaves me in doubt. It is possible that the boy has walked around the end of the cow to exhibit his dismayed and saturated self. In that case the picture is accurate, but improbable. If, on the other hand, he was sitting on the hither side of the cow, the artist has overlooked the fact that the milker seats himself on the right, and not on the left side of the cow. It is physically possible to milk a cow from the other side, but it isn't done, and no properly reared cow would approve of it.

* * *

I HAVE OFTEN WONDERED at the immense amount of detail that the artist must get into even a simple picture—except of the impressionistic kind, in order to avoid criticism for inaccuracy. Bits of structural design, ornamentation, relative proportions, which the ordinary observer does not realize are there, but whose absence he would detect instantly, are included in the picture, indicating that painting involves a vast amount of painstaking study of detail and is not merely a matter of smearing paint on canvas.

* * *

NOTORIOUSLY, SOME OF the drawing of some of the great masters is atrocious. I have never seen a great painting in which a horse was represented as rising from a recumbent position rear end first, or a cow rising forward end first, but everyone is familiar with great works of art in which horses and other animals resemble nothing that ever was on sea or land. Perhaps those monstrosities are intended to emphasize the magnificence of the central figures.

* * *

ANOTHER COURT HAS APPROVED the judgment which awarded the principal custody of the little Vanderbilt girl to her aunt rather than to her mother. Let us

hope that that settles it. A lot of tears have been shed over the wrenching of a mother's heart-strings and the violation of a mother's rights when the mother in that case was deprived of more than partial control over her child. Such sympathy is wasted. It was shown that in the mother's custody the child was being reared in an atmosphere unfit to be breathed by any child, and that the mother's behavior toward the child was that of neglect and indifference. The only evidence of interest shown by the mother was when control of the child's inherited fortune was at stake. The whole miserable business is tough on the child, but with the aunt the girl will at least have a decent home and sound upbringing.

* * *

THERE IS A WIDESPREAD belief, shared by many of some scientific standing, that variations in terrestrial weather proceed by certain rather well-defined cycles, that warm years and cold, wet years and dry, alternate in a sort of rhythmic measure, and that the length of these cycles is fairly uniform. From this basic premise there has been evolved the theory that within the great cycles there are lesser cycles during which minor weather changes occur. When the high or low points of several of these cycles coincide we are told to expect very marked and prolonged extremes.

* * *

DURING THE PAST TWO OR three years much of the world has suffered from drouth. Winters quite generally have been relatively mild and summers unusually hot. Especially last year and the year before there were published many articles of quite respectable origin, holding that the weather records fully justified the belief that the world was merely approaching the extreme of a consolidated cycle period, and that still more excessive heat and excessive drouth were to be expected for several years to come.

* * *

ALL OF THIS WAS SUPPORTED by charts and statistical calculations based on the records of many years. It looked quite impressive. Then along came the winter of 1935-36 and shattered it all. For most of this continent the winter which still clings with grim ferocity has been the coldest ever known. Snowfall has been more abundant. Spring rains in the south and east have been more copious. Devastating floods have swept almost entire states. The cycle theory may be sound, but it will need to be revamped.

LOOKING OVER HIS MAIL A local man who at various times has made investments in various corporation stocks, held up an en-



W. P. Davies.

velope which bore the address of a well-known corporation. "Some years ago," he said, "I received several of these each year from this and other concerns, and I was glad to get them, for each contained a dividend check. I am still receiving the envelopes, but all that I get out of most of them is invitations to sign proxies."

* * *

SEVENTEEN THOUSAND Kentucky colonels were slaughtered—metaphorically—the other day, when their commissions expired and they went out of office all at once. North Dakota has had its quotas of "prairie chicken" colonels, but the practice of creating them has gone out of fashion. The change is to be regretted. A governor of North Dakota, surrounded by the honorary colonels of his staff, each in a uniform liberally embellished with gold braid, was an impressive sight, and helped to make up for whatever is monotonous in our scenery. Also, the appointment of a man as colonel on the governor's staff was a convenient and inexpensive way of paying political debts, and many a man preferred the title "colonel" to a real job. Today jobs seem to be in greater demand.

* * *

MANY NORTH DAKOTANS are unaware that the state once had a full-fledged admiral. That title was conferred on the late lamented Ben Eielson by Governor Shafer. Ben was not a candidate for honors or jobs, but at a gathering in Grand Forks at which he was an honored guest, Governor Shafer conferred on him the title of admiral of the North Dakota fleet, and, I think, issued to him a commission made out in due form.

* * *

EARLY LEGISLATORS IN

North Dakota did not overlook the maritime interests of the state. A perusal of the statutes enacted in the early days might give the reader the impression that North Dakota's shipping measured up in volume to that of its railway business. There are rules and regulations governing the handling of water craft, assessment of dockage fees, and other matters of like character such as would fit a state bordering on one of the oceans. The fellow who rows a boat on the Red river or the Missouri may be violating a dozen laws without knowing it.

* * *

THE HOBBY SHOW, WITH its display, among other things, of textiles of various types, gives interest to a news item mentioning two venerable bedspreads. One of these is 91 years old, and is still in use in the home of its owner, an Oklahoma man, whose grandfather raised the sheep which furnished the wool for it. The other, 107 years old, is of linen, and was made from flax grown by the great-great-grandfather of its present owner, a resident of New Jersey.

* * *

THE DEMONSTRATION OF spinning at the show attracted much attention, being witnessed by hundreds of persons who had never seen wool spun into yarn, notwithstanding the fact that there are thousands of old spinning wheels in the homes of older people in the northwest. Many of those wheels are still in service, for spinning is by no means a lost art. There are many localities in North Dakota and northern Minnesota in which yarn is habitually spun from wool furnished by the sheep of the farm, and from that yarn are made serviceable socks and other garments for members of the household.

* * *

ALL OF THE SPINNING wheels that I have seen in the northwest are the low type, operated by foot power. Those with which I was familiar back east were much larger, and the operator stepped back and forth while spinning and kept the big wheel moving by an occasional touch with her finger. I have always considered that kind of spinning the most graceful of all occupations.

ONE OF THE PET TRADITIONS of the Border country is that when one meets a resident of Cavalier or Pembina county, it is al-



Davies

ways safe to ask him whether he came from Huron or Bruce, and that he will almost certainly be found to have come from one of those famed Ontario counties. The tradition does some violence to the facts, for Cavalier and Pembina have their quota of German, Scandinavian and other residents, as well as former Canadians. Nevertheless, a good many of those people did come from Ontario, and not a few from those two counties.

* * *

FORMER RESIDENTS OF HURON county may take some pride in the financial condition of the old home county as revealed in a statement recently made by William Sweitzer, retiring warden (chairman of the board) of Huron county. The county, says Mr. Sweitzer, has no debt except its share of the provincial debt, and it has ample funds with which to carry on its activities. Stephen township, where Mr. Sweitzer lives, is also out of debt, and has had no interest charges to meet during the past five years, and it, also, has plenty of cash with which to continue its work.

* * *

AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF the lengths to which some people will go in order to create an impression of patriotism, the New York state legislature has before it a bill requiring all school buses to be painted red, white and blue. No plan could be better devised to bring those colors into contempt than to enforce their use in inappropriate places. Red, white and blue, by the way, are by no means distinctively American colors. The three are used in various combinations by many nations. On a flag they look all right. On a bus they would be atrocious.

* * *

THESE NONSENSICAL LINES, written many years ago to satirize a certain sort of parental discipline, are being applied to the present international situation when the other nations are shaking their fingers at Germany:

MARY FROM THE WINDOW seat

Pushed the baby into the street,
Scattered its brains all over the
"ary";

Mother held up her finger at
Mary.

Mary poisoned mother's tea,
Mother died in agony.
Father said to Mary, vexed,
"Why, my dear! What next?
What next?"

* * *

IT MAY HAVE BEEN AN ANTIQUE show, with its suggestions of lavender and old lace, that suggested these lines in the New York Times to their author, Mazie V. Caruthers:

* * *

NOW OLDER GROWN.

My dancing shoes are laid upon the
shelf

With various oddments of my other
self—

That youthful self, carefree and
pleasure bent,

Who down the sunlit paths of
primrose went—

That part of me, whose lovely yesterdays

Are misted over now with purpling
haze.

Down roads beset with care, my
sober feet

Walk nowadays, but always life is
sweet—

Though shadows lengthen and the
days grow long,

Within my constant heart abides
its song.

Sometimes I take old memories
out, to touch

With tender fingers things that
meant so much,

Then close the door on such re-
membering—

Life cannot always linger at its
Spring—

And one who long has worn upon
her hand

The thinning circle of a wedding
band

Knows that the passing years as
guerdon bring

To Autumn love, a bounteous har-
vesting!

* * *

OLD TIMERS IN THE EAST are trying to figure out when, if ever, there was a colder winter than this latest one. No one now living can recall a winter which equaled in severity that of 1779-80, of which Thomas Jefferson wrote: "The Chesapeake bay was frozen solid from its head to the mouth of the Potomac. At Annapolis the ice was 5 to 7 inches in thickness, quite across, 5 1-4 miles, so that loaded carriages went over it."

THIS HAS NOT BEEN TREE-planting weather, but it is a good time to make preparations for planting. In the newer sections of the city many street trees are needed, and in the older sections many replacements should be made. Most of the trees planted along the streets in the early days were box elders, chosen for their rapid growth and the ease with which they could be obtained. Aside from these features the box



W. P. Davies.

elder is not a desirable tree. It is messy in its habits and it is short-lived. Our older box elders are now past maturity, as is evidenced by scaling bark and rotten centers. All of them should be replaced as quickly as possible.

* * *

WHILE THERE ARE MANY trees which thrive well in this territory, those which have proven most satisfactory for street planting are the Ash and the American elm. Probably most persons would give preference to the elm because of its tallness and its graceful form as well as its perfect hardiness in this climate. Appearance of the elm tree disease in the east created anxiety lest all our elms should be destroyed, and there has been some question whether, in the presence of this menace, it would not be wise to substitute some other tree in our planting. There is at least a fair prospect that through the vigorous work of federal and state governments the elm tree disease can be kept under control and ultimately banished from the continent.

* * *

ALMOST EQUAL IN DESIRABILITY, and preferred by some, is the ash. Its shade is less dense than that of the elm, and its habit of growth requires some pruning to keep the lower branches at a sufficient height. The ash is a clean tree, and it appears to be relatively immune to attack from insect and bacterial enemies. Both the elm and the ash are native

trees, being found in abundance in all our native forests.

* * *

THE PARK COMMISSION HAS a large supply of ash and elm trees suitable for transplanting, and these will be furnished to residents of the city free of charge, with full instruction for planting and care. Planting must be done by the applicant. Application should be made to Mrs. Kannowski, park superintendent.

* * *

THERE IS A RATHER COMMON impression that the best trees for planting are those taken right from their native home in the forest. This is a mistake. Nursery-grown trees are far superior for this purpose. Every tree experiences a shock when it is moved. When the forest tree is moved after it has attained a growth of 8 or 10 feet, the shock is apt to be fatal unless the greatest care is exercised in planting and subsequent treatment. Most of its longer roots are left behind, and it has provided nothing against such an emergency.

* * *

THE NURSERY TREE IS USUALLY transplanted several times before it is large enough for the final planting. Recovering from each shock it has set up its own defenses against such treatment. It has developed a compact root system which is capable of standing severe punishment, and it has become accustomed to the extremes of heat and cold and to the high winds which it will encounter in its future life in the open. Also, it is much less likely that the forest tree to be infected with disease.

* * *

SPRING BIRDS ARE BECOMING impatient over the prolonged delay in the arrival of weather suitable for their housekeeping purposes. Held back and all ready for flight, when they do come they arrive in flocks. Flocks of robins and blackbirds came during the thaw of some two weeks ago. The other day a flock of bluebirds fed on the Presbyterian church lawn. From my window I can see half-a-dozen birds which at this distance I suppose to be buntings. They can find some shelter from cold winds in the woods, but the snow is still deep there, and they must come in to the open in search of food.

TWO FINGER-PRINTS HAVE been found so near alike that one might easily be mistaken for the other, and their discovery had re-



Davies comes closer to perfection than anything else that we have.

* * *

WHERE IDENTIFICATION depends on our recollection of personal characteristics we are plunged into a sea of uncertainty. Aside from the fact that personal characteristics such as color of hair, weight and carriage change quickly, few persons observe these and other characteristics with great accuracy. Eye-witnesses to a crime, with every opportunity for close observation, often find it impossible to pick out from a group of men similarly attired the one whom they saw commit the crime the day before. Resemblances are often so close that even parents are often deceived.

* * *

PHOTOGRAPHY IS A GREAT help, and a great advance was made when the Bertillon system of measurements came into use. But in this field the finger-print comes the nearest to perfection.

* * *

MRS. C. K. WING, OF CARRINGTON, writes that she was greatly interested in the recent industrial issue of The Herald and its account of activities in the early days, because she and her late husband were among the pioneers of the upper James river valley. Mr. Wing came to the state in 1882 and filed on a homestead near where Melville was later established.

* * *

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC was about to build north from Jamestown, and at the point where

it was expected that a town would be located one Ed. Leavenworth built a store, hauling lumber and supplies from Jamestown with mules. The place was about half way between Jamestown and the Devils Lake reservation, and the store did a lively business with Indians as well as with incoming settlers. Later in the season it was learned that the road was to run a mile farther west, so the store building was wrecked and moved over.

* * *

MR. WING SERVED FOR some time as a guide and locator for settlers, receiving \$25 per day for his services. Later he moved near Carrington, where he occupied the farm that is now used as an experiment station by the Agricultural college. He increased his holdings, had some good crops, and was dried out in 1886. That year his wheat ran about 1½ bushels per acre, and he wound up that year \$10,000 in debt. His losses were recovered in later years, for he was an active business man. Often he borrowed money at 25 per cent interest with which to carry on his transactions in machinery, horses, etc., and often the farmers with whom he dealt were unable to meet their payments for several years. Such interest rates now seem excessive, but they corresponded closely to the risks which were run in doing business in a new country whose possibilities were unknown. Mr. Wing served on the board of pardons under Governor John Burke.

* * *

IF THE MEMBERS OF THE class in mathematics have been tempted to experiment with the problem of trisecting an angle, they may be interested in a statement made by the Scientific American that the thing cannot be done. This statement is made with full knowledge of the fact that every once in a while some one comes forward with the announcement that he has solved this problem which had troubled mathematicians since the days of Plato. The editor of the Scientific American says that not only has the trisection of a plane angle, without the aid of graduations or measurements, ever been accomplished, but that the thing can be demonstrated to be impossible. So there!

HIS MAJESTY EDWARD VIII, of Great Britain, King, Emperor of India and Defender of the Faith, answers his own tele-



phone when the thing goes off and there is no one else around to attend to it. It would be much more dignified for him to let it ring until a secretary could explain that his majesty was in conference and could not be disturbed, demanding, also, to know the caller's name, residence, business and antecedents, and instructing him to hold the wire until the royal pleasure could be ascertained.

* * *

ON THE SUBJECT OF "HOLDING the wire" one man expressed himself as follows: "I'll hold the wire while my own call is being completed, but I won't hold it while a secretary who has been instructed to call me goes off to see whether the boss has gone out to lunch or is busy telling a funny story. When I get a call I have a right to suppose that the person who wants to talk to me is there and ready to talk. If he isn't I'm not going to hold the wire while they find him."

* * *

WHEN THE EASTER PARADE on Park avenue, New York, is in progress, one of the paraders will be a gentleman wearing top hat and frock coat, but whose attire will differ from that of other paraders in that his hat will contain a concealed radio transmitting set by means of which he will air his comments on the pageant and the costumes worn by those who participate in it.

* * *

THE STUNT WILL PROVIDE a test of a new portable microwave "station" recently developed to operate on 1.1 meters at two-tenths of a watt power output. The range of the silk-hat broadcaster is about a quarter of a mile.

A radio-equipped automobile will hover near the announcer and his party to intercept the microwaves and relay them to a fixed receiver in a broadcasting station, whence a network will rebroadcast the program throughout the country.

Power for the miniature sending unit will be supplied by a "cartridge-belt" battery container to be

worn by the announcer under his frock coat. Thirty small dry cells placed around one side of the belt will provide a potential of 180 volts. On the other side a four-cell battery unit will provide six volts. Together the potentials will operate three tiny "acorn" tubes in the transmitter. Another small battery concealed in the belt will energize a hand microphone, small enough to be concealed in the palm.

To broadcast without becoming conspicuous it is said to be only necessary for the announcer to speak softly as he goes through the motions of scratching his nose or stroking his chin. A single inconspicuous cable will connect all the units with the transmitter and aerial system in the top hat.

* * *

MRS. GUSTAV GARSKE, Pioneer resident of Garske, N. D., celebrated her seventieth birthday anniversary on April 1 at a gathering at the home of her daughter, Mrs. R. E. Orchard, of Starkweather, where she was visiting, and she recalled that the day was also the fiftieth anniversary of her arrival from Wausau, Wisconsin, as a young woman of 20. She had been

educated in Austria and had always lived in cities, and the sudden change to the solitude of the frontier was not easy.

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"BEFORE COMING HERE," said Mrs. Garske, "my husband had saved \$600, she said. With this he bought lumber, horses, cows, chickens and other necessities to begin farming. With his brother they chartered a freight with which they paid \$84. They reached Devils Lake on April 4.

"The first thing we did was to go north and look for land. We found no place to stay for the night, so we came back to Devils Lake. There my husband built a shack, where I lived while he and his brother went out near Garske where they built our homes."

* * *

"WE EXPERIENCED MANY hardships the first few years. Crops froze, and one of our horses died. We bought another for \$50. Before we got it paid for, including interest the horse cost us over \$300."

Today, Mrs. Garske owns one of the best farms and buildings in Ramsey county. It is located to the west of the track near Garske. Mr. Garske died several years ago.

* * *

ELECTION DAY ALWAYS brings to my mind the first two Canadian elections that I can recall. They were held before the Australian ballot had found its way to this continent, and in those elections no ballots of any kind were used. The process was much more simple. The voter stepped up to the desk of the presiding election officer, and after being identified in due form he was asked "For whom do you vote?" Question was asked and answer given in full view and hearing of all who chose to be present, and often the answer was received with cheers or shouts of derision, according to the sentiment of the crowd.

* * *

ONE BEAUTY OF THAT PLAN was that everyone knew how everyone else voted. There was no dodging. Another thing that made it interesting that the watchers in a precinct knew all through the day just how many votes had been cast, and for whom. There were no telephones, and roads were often difficult. Therefore couriers mounted on horseback were used to collect information, carry it to headquarters and gallop back with instructions to hustle up more votes if more were needed. There was real kick in an election of that kind.

FEW OF THE GAMES WITH which we are familiar had definite and precise beginning. Baseball is the result of an evolution which



Davies

has been in progress for ages. Hockey was developed from a schoolboy game whose only rule, persistently violated, was "shiny on your own side." Golf is sometimes said by the irreverent to be traceable to the practice of killed Scottish Highlanders of using the skulls of their enemies for playthings and knocking them about with sticks.

* * *

BASKETBALL WAS THE deliberate invention of one man, and its inventor is still living, and at the age of 74 is teaching physical education in the University of Kansas. He is Dr. James A. Naismith. It is rather interesting to note that while he invented the game, Dr. Naismith has played it only twice in his life, once in 1892, the year after he gave the game to the world, and again in 1898. He says he had so much to do with other athletic activities that "he just didn't get around to playing."

* * *

IT WAS WHILE A MEMBER of the staff of the Springfield (Mass.) Y. M. C. A. training school, where he taught psychology, Bible study and boxing that he invented basketball, a sport now played, it is said, by 18,000,000 persons each year in many countries.

A class composed of some eighteen secretaries at the Y. M. C. A. school wanted a change—something new in the line of sport. Dr. Naismith, remembering his boyhood game of "duck on the rock," in which a rock is tossed at a "duck," got busy.

* * *

TWO PEACH BASKETS, A soccer ball and a smooth floor were provided and basketball was born. To guard against tackling which might cause injury, he thought of passing the ball. That went into the game, too. Soon the Y. M. C. A. took over the game, he said, and promulgated its rules.

* * *

IN 1905 DR. NAISMITH BECAME associated with the Y. M. C. A. in Denver, Colo., teaching physical training and studying medicine on the side at the Gross Medical School, now affiliated with the University of Colorado. In 1907 he became physician at the University of Kansas, a post he held for seven years.

He is still with the University of Kansas, having worked there in the physical training department since 1914. He is married, has three daughters and two sons. They are not basketball enthusiasts, he said.

A NEW TEST TO DETERMINE whether or not students "think scientifically" has been devised by Professor Victor H. Noll, of Rhode Island state college and made public at Columbia.

* * *

THE TEST CONSISTS OF 10 statements that must be classified as "true" or "false." From the answers Dr. Noll is able to "score" the amount of "scientific thinking" done by the person taking the test. The statements follow:

1. If many persons break a law like prohibition, it's all right for any one to do so.
2. There is no use working any harder than is necessary to get by.
3. A high forehead is a sign of intelligence.
4. We won the World war because our side was right.
5. Our next president will be a Democrat.
6. Machinery eventually will replace manual labor completely.
7. The Christian faith is the only true one.
8. Any nation that persecutes the Jews, as Germany has done recently, must be totally uncivilized.
9. One should support the home team always, no matter what the circumstances may be.
10. If my teacher says a thing is so, it must be so.

* * *

PERSONS WHO CLASSIFY the first two statements as true, according to Dr. Noll, lack intellectual honesty.

Those who hold the third and fourth statements are true have "the common habit of positing mysterious, unnatural and false causes for events and phenomena."

The fifth and sixth items in the list "predict something that may or may not be true," and persons who make statements like these were termed "socially immature" by Dr. Noll.

* * *

"ITEMS SEVEN AND EIGHT are examples of those intended to measure open-mindedness," he wrote. "Bigotry, prejudice and intolerance are so common that they need hardly be cited except for emphasis."

"The last two items listed are illustrative of situations in which the habit of criticism might be exercised. Much of our thinking and directing of young minds rewards and even demands attitudes of laissez faire and uncritical acceptance of authority, while a more critical attitude sometimes is met with resentment."

Unscientific thinking, Dr. Noll declared, was responsible for many of the ills of present-day society.

* * *

IT HAS OCCURED TO SOME educators that much of the unscientific thinking of the day is due to the use in the schools of just such tests, two of whose characteristics are that they give the student a 50-50 break if he merely guesses at the answers and that they reduce to the minimum the labor of the instructor in marking papers.

EVERY TIME I PASS WITH-
in view of the Great Northern
passenger station, which I have
been doing pretty regularly for
many years I re-
ceive a shock
when I am con-
fronted by the
r'aring, plunging
figure of Mr.
Kenney's goat in-
stead of the fam-
iliar face of the
clock which was
once a familiar
figure in the
landscape. The
clock having
worn itself out in
service to the
community its
works have been



W. P. Davies.

removed, and for the two hands
moving slowly around its face
there has been substituted the
mountain goat emblem of the
Great Northern, which I have been
assured many times is entirely dif-
ferent from the bock beer sign
which once made its appearance
regularly every spring.

* * *

FOR HALF A CENTURY THE
clock told the time to passers-by,
not always accurately, but that
made little difference. One usually
had a watch, anyway, and an error
of a few minutes could easily be
checked. The point is that the clock
face has somewhat the aspect of
the face of an old friend, not nec-
essarily beautiful in itself, but
conveying the suggestion of a
smile. I detect no smile on the
countenance of the goat. On the
contrary there is a suggestion of
sternness which is more or less
repelling.

* * *

CLOCKS HAVE ALWAYS
been objects of interest to me. The
first one of which I have any re-
collection was literally the grand-
father clock of my boyhood with
its walnut case and a dial which
showed the smiling face of the
moon in its various phases. Its bell
had a pleasing note and it was
wound each night at bed time by
pulling up a heavy weight by
means of a chain. The clock had
then been running steadily for
more than 50 years, and the chain
had become so badly worn that
once in a while a link would break
and the weight would plunge, ker-
plunk! to the bottom of the clock.
That clock is now doing duty as a
hall ornament in a sister's home
back east. The cogs on several
of its wheels wore out years ago,
and the clock no longer ticks off
the seconds or chimes the hours.

* * *

OUR OTHER CLOCK WAS
just an ordinary kitchen clock

which also had to be wound every
night and which was cleaned and
adjusted periodically by a man who
walked from house to house, clean-
ing, adjusting and repairing clocks,
and who did what was necessary
on our clock for his supper, bed
and breakfast. His regular price
for a cleaning job was 50 cents.
When housekeeping was broken up
and most of the family effects
were sold at auction the auctioneer
waxed almost poetic in his praises
of that clock, which he assured
bidders would run eight days. Af-
ter settling up the purchaser asked
"Are you sure this clock will run
for eight days?" "Certainly," re-
plied the auctioneer, "if you don't
forget to wind it every night."

* * *

ONE OF THE MOST FASCIN-
ating places that I visited as a boy
was the shop of a queer old man
named Excell, a watchmaker, who
also sold canaries and curios.
Hung about in various parts of
the room were caged birds by the
dozen, and it seemed that all the
wall and ceiling space not occu-
pied by the birds were filled with
clocks, and ticking away vigorous-
ly, no two of them showing the
same time, and some of them
striking every few minutes. I nev-
er could understand how the old
man had time to do anything else
after winding all those clocks.

* * *

I STILL HAVE AN AFFEC-
tion for clocks. I realize that a
multiplicity of clocks tends to un-
certainty as to what time it is.
When you have one clock you ac-
cept its verdict and let it go at
that. But when there are half-a-
dozen, how is anyone to know
what time it is? The old depot
clock had four faces, and when
you averaged them you wouldn't
be far off, provided the clock had
not stopped. I had an affection for
the old clock which I have not de-
veloped for the goat. Always I
have had a feeling of diffidence in
the presence of a goat, and if the
goat lowered his head that diffi-
dence has verged on panic. I wish
they would fix the old clock and
put it back.

* * *

ONE MODERATELY WARM
day brings birds by the dozen. For
a spring day Wednesday was just
so-so, but the birds were on the
job bright and early, robins hop-
ping all over the yard and uniden-
tified birds chirping. Mrs. William
Schrier reports a small colony of
blue birds at her home, 118 Bel-
mont. Before we know it the wrens
will be selecting their summer
homes, which reminds me to put
that wren house out the first fine
day.

A GALAXY OF STARS IN drama and dramatic criticism assembled in New York on Sunday evening to do honor to Maxwell



Davies

Anderson, who once studied English at the University of North Dakota and has since become one of the country's leading dramatists. Brooks Atkinson, dramatic critic of the New York Times, presented to Mr. Anderson the plaque awarded to him in evidence of the selection of his play "Winter-

set," by the Dramatic Critics Circle as the best play of the season. George Jean Nathan spoke, as did other eminent critics, and Eugene O'Neill wrote an appreciative letter which contained this paragraph on the kind of work that Anderson is doing:

* * *

"WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT to me—I believe that when this truth has been pounded home to intelligent Americans—and it will be pounded home most effectively by examples such as your award this year—I believe then that real art theaters will at least be born in this country, theaters such as Europe has had and has, repertoire theaters where fine plays may continue to live in revival and not die the sudden, complete and ignominious death that now follows so dishearteningly for authors at the close of the commercial run; theaters which will not be run primarily as just another business venture, for profit, any more than the dramatist who is an artist writes his plays primarily as trade goods; theaters where the true profit will be reckoned as that gain which accrues from the cultural value to a people of keeping alive the continuity of its past and present creative art."

* * *

NEW YORK'S SUPERINTENDENT of schools wants ballads and other popular songs to be included in the music curriculum of the schools. These, he thinks, should be studied because they are part of the folk-lore of the day." They us-

ually embody very wholesome sentiments," he says. For example, they glorify such things as home, spring and love."

* * *

THE "GLORIFICATION" OF those and similar themes in the average popular song consists of the abuse of the terms by having them attached to maudlin sentimentality, atrocious versification and excruciating noise which is incorrectly listed as music. Their one redeeming feature is that each of them lasts but a few minutes. Before one of them could be included in any organized classroom study it would have been forgotten.

* * *

A FACTORY WORKER IN Massachusetts consumed 144 eggs in four hours to win a \$4 bet. When he got through he said that he felt all right, though not hungry. That beats any egg-devouring feat of which I ever heard. I have seen a fellow suck a dozen of them, one after another, when a new nest was discovered up on the hay loft. The regular procedure in such a case was to run the tine of a pitchfork through the egg, making a big hole at one end and a little one at the other. Then there was, and perhaps still is, the prairie oyster, which in its simplest form consists of a raw egg broken into a glass, treated with a little vinegar and sprinkled with pepper and salt. It isn't at all bad to take. Some prefer whisky to vinegar, but that's another story.

* * *

IN SPITE OF THE LIBERAL quantity of snow on the ground when the first thaw came, not only will there be no Red river flood this spring, but there will not be even "high water." Most of the snow is gone—somewhere, and the river seems to be not more than a foot above its summer level, meaning the level ordinarily maintained by the Riverside Park dam. The water just below the Red Lake river dam seems to be about two feet lower than that above it, whereas in summer there is a difference of about three feet.

* * *

SOME OF THE WATER FROM melting snow has been lost by evaporation, but much of it must have soaked into the soil. There isn't enough left to change the river level materially, hence—no flood.

RUDYARD KIPLING LEFT AN estate valued at about \$700,000. While that figure might not seem impressive to the movie star who



W. P. Davies.

has recently graduated from a hamburger stand, it is a fairly comfortable fortune for a man to accumulate by means of his pen. Aside from a substantial bequest to his daughter and several smaller ones to others, the income from the remainder of the estate goes to his widow during her lifetime, then to the daughter. Ultimately the capital is to be distributed to Canadian and Australian farm schools in which Kipling was deeply interested, and which also received substantial aid from King Edward VIII while he was Prince of Wales.

* * *

THERE SHOULD BE A FORTUNE in store for the man who will invent a device which, without interfering with vision, will protect one's spectacles from the usual morning bombardment of grapefruit juice. Even if one aims the fruit directly at other members of the family, splash! the juice explodes all over his own glasses. Rub, rub! there! at least I can see the typewriter now.

* * *

THE HUNGARIAN PREMIER and a political antagonist fought a duel with pistols the other day. Firing at each other at the distance of 25 paces, both missed, and the combatants stalked angrily from the ground, still unreconciled. The pistols were loaded, too, for the bullets were afterward found imbedded in the walls of the barracks where the bloodless battle was fought. Or perhaps somebody had planted the bullets there in advance.

* * *

A MEMORABLE DUEL WAS fought in Scotland many years ago when Thomas Moore, the sweet singer of Ireland, and Jeffrey, critic of the Edinburg Review, blazed away at each other without either getting a scratch. The seconds had

seen to that, however, for they had secretly withdrawn the bullets from both pistols. Byron commemorated that duel in his "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers." Moore wrote under the pseudonym "Thomas Little," and it was that title that Byron used in the derisive lines:

"Health to great Jeffrey! Heaven preserve his life,
To flourish on the fertile shores of Fife,
And guard it sacred in its future wars,
Since authors sometimes seek the field of Mars!
Can none remember that eventful day,
That ever glorious, almost fatal fray,
When Little's leadless pistol met his eye,
And Bow street myrmidons stood laughing by?"

* * *

MOORE, STUNG BY THIS ridicule sent a challenge to Byron, but Byron had left for the continent and the challenge did not reach him until months later. By that time Moore had cooled off. A warm friendship sprang up between the two men, and there was no more thought of slaughter.

* * *

IT WAS MARK TWAIN, I BELIEVE, who accepted a challenge to a duel, and who, exercising the right of the challenged party to name the weapons, prescribed "broadwords at twenty paces."

* * *

SOME FRIEND WHO FAILED to sign his name, but whom I judge to be an elderly man, sent me several laboriously written pages in what I took to be Norwegian, but that was as far as I could get. Another friend, familiar with the language, translated for me and found the content to be the text of a Norwegian poem, concerning a young man who went away to the wars in 1870 and 1871. It recounts his experiences in battle, including his death in saving his captain. His sweetheart then finds him dead on the battlefield and goes insane. The lesson of the poem is the futility of war. That sentiment has inspired writers all over the world for ages. And still we fight!

ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED in owning a tunnel can buy one, cheap, if he will make proper application to the authorities of the city of London.



Davies

There is offered for sale a tunnel, about 800 yards long, which was built under the Thames river in 1890 to accommodate one of the first electric railways in the world. The vendors suggest that it may be used as a shooting gallery, a mushroom garden or a wine cellar. Cut into sections and upended it would make a lot of excellent silos, but nobody seems to have thought of that.

* * *

FROM F. H. SCOTT I HAVE received a bundle of Toronto papers containing pages of pictures of the flood which followed the melting of snow in the eastern section of Ontario. The city of Bellville near the lower end of Lake Ontario, suffered more than any other place of considerable size. Water covered much of the city to a depth of several feet. The illustrations show buildings afloat, bridges wrecked and roadways washed away. The floods were most severe from about Toronto east. The western peninsula escaped with comparatively little damage.

* * *

HERE IS A STRAY BIT OF verse from a writer who can find something cheering in even a backward spring and a bird which is not commonly regarded with affection:

THE VOICE OF SPRING

Let others wait for signs of spring
Till robins or the bluebirds sing,
But long before those birds appear

There is a voice I love to hear.
When winter still enshrouds the land

And grips it with an icy hand,
When skies are drear and chill winds blow,

We hear his raucous voice—the crow.

At early morn across the sky
A streak of darkness see him fly,
And when the days are cold and raw

He flings his challenge — "Caw, Caw. Caw."

For he's a storm-defying bird
Before another voice is heard.
The tidings first he's sure to bring,
This brave, bold herald of the spring.

* * *

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT is abolishing the duties which have been levied on American magazines. This was recently made the subject of animated discussion in parliament at Ottawa. The duty was defended by speakers who urged that it be retained for the protection of Canadian industry, for the protection of Canadian readers from the demoralizing influence of American magazine literature, and as a defense against the insidious propaganda in American advertising which sets forth the merits of American goods and which it was assumed was deliberately intended to mislead and corrupt Canadian readers.

* * *

OTHER SPEAKERS SAID that the high duties had really been of little benefit to Canadian labor. As to the pernicious influence of American magazine literature, one member said that he had examined a number of American

magazines and found in them little that he considered dangerous. The charge that American advertising was prepared with special reference to the Canadian market was given little weight.

* * *

SUCH A DISCUSSION HAS ITS amusing side, yet there is presented to Canadians a real problem in the American magazine, which is bound to circulate in Canada, either in the original or in reprint form, duty or no duty. A magazine is published with intent to interest the largest possible proportion of readers in its particular literary field in the country in which its circulation is greatest. The publisher in New York, Boston or any of the other large publishing centers, of necessity makes his major appeal to the 130,000,000 Americans rather than to the 10,000,000 Canadian population. His articles deal chiefly with American problems and most of his fiction is written around American scenes and experiences. The literary value of his publication is at great to the Canadian as to the American, but the Canadian is apt to feel that in other respects his country is ignored. Because of the

relatively small Canadian field the strictly Canadian magazine is restricted in circulation and its publisher is engaged in a competition in which the odds are greatly against him.

* * *

A MINNESOTA DOCTOR HAS announced the cancellation of debts owed to him amounting to \$50,000, the accumulation of 28 years of practice. To cancel a debt owed by one who is unable to pay without great sacrifice is a generous act. Accounts have found their way into the papers of similar acts by several business and professional men. But there is going on all the time a process of cancellation which is never made public, and in which there are few physicians who do not participate.

* * *

I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT A study of the books of any representative physician would be illuminating to most of us. We should find there a record of calls made and services performed and possibly of charges entered for each item. We might or might not find a record of the charges cancelled. That would depend on the system of bookkeeping employed. But if we should go into the background of all the cases we should find an amazing quantity of service for which no compensation has ever been or ever will be received. Often the service was performed as an act of generosity, without any thought of payment. In other cases charges were made merely on the chance that some day they would be paid, but because of the known circumstances of the debtor they have long since been forgotten. Your physician and mine are making contributions of this kind every day, even though no grand gesture may accompany them.

AS AN EXPERIMENT A LONG Island family consisting of a man his wife and three children, undertook to live through Lent on an allowance of \$8.20 a week for food.



Davies

They kept within that allowance and Easter found them in good health and spirits. They had suffered no inconvenience during the period except that, having been accustomed to more generous fare, they sometimes wished for more expensive dishes than the budget permitted. The head of the family confessed that occasionally he found himself hankering for a thick steak smothered in mushrooms.

* * *

THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES are living regularly on an allowance for food as small as that to which the Long Island family restricted itself. Many of them are living well, that is, they have an abundance of wholesome, nourishing food sufficiently varied to provide all the food elements requisite to good health. In other cases it would be difficult, if not impossible to do this.

* * *

LOCALITY HAS A GREAT deal to do with the cost of food. Prices for many of the standard prepared foods are fairly uniform through the country but prices of meats, milk and butter, eggs, fruits and vegetables vary greatly. Differences in storage facilities also cause wide variation in cost. To put in the winter's supply of potatoes at 50 cents a bushel is one thing. For the family without cellar to buy potatoes all winter by the half-peck is quite another thing. This applies to other vegetables and many of the fresh fruits. There is no rule that can be applied to the country at large, and "average" costs mean nothing in this case. Differences in the experience and the habits of families also count for much. It is often said that the French family of moderate means lives well on what the American family in comparable circumstances throws away.

* * *

AT A GATHERING OF MAGicians out on the Pacific coast it was recommended that children in

the middle grades in school be given regular instruction in card tricks and other legerdemain. The idea was advanced that the boy who knows how cards are juggled will be less likely to become the victim of card sharps later on. That may be so, but my guess is that as fast as the boy became adept in the manipulation of cards he would be trying his tricks on some of the other fellows, or possibly on dad at a nickel a throw.

* * *

IT IS A WELL KNOWN FACT, also, that crooked gamblers are often each other's victims. Knowing all the tricks in their own game, they will nevertheless fall for other tricks played by some other crook. The adage "never bet on the other fellow's game" is more often honored in the breach than in the observance, even among those whose regular business it is to play crooked games.

* * *

NO MATTER WHAT THE weather man says about it, spring has come, for the big circus is in full swing in Madison Square Garden, New York. Of course only a few people in New York know that the circus is there. That is one of the disadvantages of living in New York. In a small town the very air is full of circus, and one cannot escape it, even if he tries. And what right-thinking person thinks of keeping away from the circus?

* * *

OF COURSE THE CIRCUS IS no longer what it used to be. The elephants are there, and the clowns and the thrilling acts. And the unloading and loading have their good points. But the street parade has been abolished, and that was one of the grand features of the whole day. There has been talk of a revival of the parade, but nothing has been done about it—yet.

* * *

TIME WAS WHEN IT WAS considered improper to go to a circus. To the majority the impropriety was considered pardonable, merely a slight lapse, like splitting kindling on Sunday, or taking aboard a little more liquor than could be carried steadily. There were heads of families, however, whose faces were set firmly against the immoral exhibition and whose children were never permitted to see the inside of a circus tent. I remember one such family. They never went to the circus, but always on circus day they were up bright and early so as to get a good place to see the parade, which incidentally, didn't cost the head of the family a cent.

NOW THAT THE SNOW IS gone, or most of it, we find that the mice have been busy underneath the drifts. Reports from



W. P. Davies.

various quarters indicate either that mice in this vicinity have become so numerous as to approach the proportions of a real pest, or that the weather conditions of the past winter have caused them to behave in an unusual manner. In many places that

have been covered with deep

snow the turf is full of their narrow, shallow runways and perforated with holes leading, presumably, to their underground nests.

SOME LAWNS HAVE THE appearance of having been trenched by miniature plows. At the Lincoln park golf course considerable damage has been done to the greens, as the runways leave irregularities in the surface which must be corrected before they will be fit for play. Probably the actual damage to other lawns will be found less than it appears to be now before the grass has fairly started. The rake will correct most of the shallow depressions, and even without fresh seeding, which, however, will be useful, the spreading grass will soon cover the scars.

THERE HAS BEEN REPORTED a most curious phase of this "swarming" of mice in the appearance of these little animals literally in thousands along some of the roadside ditches. One such place is along Highway No. 2 a few miles west of Grand Forks where the ditch is full of water and low lands adjoining are flooded. There mice are to be seen in vast numbers, sometimes at the edge of the water and sometimes swimming in it. Presumably the rapid accumulation of water during the recent

comparatively warm weather has driven them from their nests and they have not yet found new shelters.

IT IS SCARCELY LIKELY that we are to be subjected to a plague of mice such as has occasionally afflicted other parts of the world. The natural enemies of the mice, owls, hawks, crows, weasels, skunks and so forth, will probably take care of that. Norway occasionally experiences occasional mysterious migrations of lemmings, which are quite similar to mice and which occasionally descend from the mountains in millions, swarm over the lowlands and disappear in the sea.

THE HANDFUL OF FRENCH which were the first settlers on Prince Edward island, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, had a tragic experience with mice. Settling on the coast they had cleared and cultivated small tracts of land, and a bountiful crop was almost ready for crop. Suddenly mice appeared in vast numbers, coming from the interior of the island, where their natural food supply had failed, and the settlers saw their fine crops utterly destroyed by the voracious little animals which nothing within their power could withstand. Famine and starvation followed what was expected to be a bounteous harvest.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY," said the attorney for the plaintiff, who had been run over by an automobile, "the driver of the car has stated that he was going only four miles an hour. Think of it, the long agony of my poor, unfortunate client, the victim, as the car drove slowly over his body!"

ONE OF THE PECULIARITIES of this alleged spring has been that the snow was practically all gone before any water appeared on the fields or in the water courses, and then, without any apparent reason, everything was afloat. The earth seems to have soaked up moisture until near the surface it became completely saturated, and then what little was left ran off all at once.

FRED L. GOODMAN, WHO has just returned from California, has received Pasadena papers telling of the unloading of the 200-



W. P. Davies.

inch mirror which, when finished, is to be used in the telescope at the Mount Palomar observatory to catch beams of light from stars so far distant as to be beyond human comprehension. Mr. Goodman hoped to be able to witness the arrival of the immense sheet of glass, but was unable to remain long enough for that purpose. The people of Pasadena, however, were eagerly awaiting the event, and the Star-News reports that several thousand persons saw the big mirror unloaded.

* * *

A SHEET OF GLASS 17 FEET in diameter, and weighing 40 tons, is no easy thing to transport, no matter for what purpose the glass is to be used, and in order to accommodate its great size it was necessary to rebuild the car on which it was carried, with a well into which it could be lowered. Because of the purpose for which it is to be used, the glass must be flawless. The slightest blemish would destroy its usefulness. It was necessary to use the greatest care to insure the purity of the materials which enter into the composition of the glass, and after the casting the sheet was kept cooling gradually for many months, so that no sudden change of temperature would cause checks or cracks.

* * *

ANNEALING AND COOLING successfully accomplished, the next problem was that of transportation. In order to prevent dangerous jars en route the glass was packed in tons of elastic material, heavily crated and mounted on its specially rebuilt car which formed part of a special train, the other members of which were locomotive, box car and caboose. The train crossed the continent without misadventure, and the Santa Fe officials, over whose road the train made the last lap of its journey, heaved a sigh of relief as they delivered their precious freight to the consignees. Incidentally the road had spent \$900 on insurance premiums as a protection against accident.

* * *

THE NEXT THREE YEARS will be spent in grinding and polishing the slab of glass, all of whose lines must be mathematically perfect, and if all goes well the

mirror, true to the last millionth of an inch, backed by an aluminum compound, will by the end of 1940 be mounted and in use in the world's newest and largest observatory.

* * *

THE LARGEST TELESCOPE mirror now in use is that at the Mount Wilson observatory, and is 100 inches in diameter. This latest creation, 200 inches in diameter, will receive and reflect four times the light of the other, and will be able to carry the observations of science into distant regions of the universe never before plumbed by man.

* * *

IF, AS IS HOPED, THE GREAT telescope with its mammoth mirror is in use in 1840, that year will be marked by two great events, this important advance in astronomical science, and the celebration of the fifth centenary of the invention of printing by Gutenberg. The exact date of Gutenberg's invention is unknown. The weight of evidence seems to favor the year 1445, but earlier investigation placed the date in 1440, and this has generally been accepted as close enough for purposes of commemoration. Elaborate celebrations in honor of the event were held in Gutenberg's home city, Mainz, in 1540, 1640, 1740 and 1840, and the observance will be held on the corresponding year in this century. The telescope and the art of printing are elements in the extension of human knowledge, and it is quite fitting that the beginning of the one should be commemorated in the year which is to be marked by a significant advance in the other.

* * *

STRICTLY SPEAKING, GUTENBERG did not "invent" printing. Nobody knows who did. Like most other arts, this has been the result of development. Seals and coins were produced from carved forms—a method of printing—by Babylonians, Assyrians, Egyptians, Romans and Greeks. In the early ages the Chinese had a method of printing from wood blocks, and work of this sort was done in the Netherlands during Gutenberg's time. About the same time duplication was done by a Chinese smith by means of letters made of clay, and still later in China and some other Oriental countries, characters were cast in copper. By means of none of these methods was the art of printing as we know it developed. It remained for Gutenberg to devise a method whereby type could be so cast as to be set in lines in various combinations, distributed and used again, which is the essence of the art of printing as we know it. Gutenberg, therefore, is rightfully known as the founder of the art.

ON FRIDAY JOHN M. HORAN of Milwaukee, boiler washing inspector for the Milwaukee railway, rounded out his eighty-first year



of service with that road, and started in on another year. He is believed to be the holder of the world's record for continuous service with one company. Born in Vermont 98 years ago, he moved with his parents to Milwaukee while a boy, and on April 17, 1838 he began work for the old Milwaukee and Mississippi railroad, one of the first units in the present Milwaukee system. His duties have been changed many times, but his employment has always been with the same company.

* * *

HIS FIRST JOB WAS THAT OF loading wood onto the wood-burning locomotives of that day. Wood was piled in quarter, half and cord piles to permit measuring the amount loaded. Engineers acknowledged the quantity received by giving metal tokens in exchange for the wood that was charged up against their engines. One of Mr. Horan's prized possessions is a half-cord wood chip which he carries as a memento of his early labors.

* * *

MR. HORAN HAS BEEN A pipe smoker most of his life, which may account for his longevity and vigor. He boasts that he worked for the Milwaukee road before any of its present officials were born. He has shaken hands with every president of the road, including Byron Kilbourn, the first head of the company.

* * *

EDDIE CANTOR OFFERED A prize of \$5,000 for the best peace essay to be written by a schoolboy. Out of 212,000 entries the essay submitted by a Missouri boy was awarded first place. When the essay was published it was found to be almost an exact copy of one

written by the president of Newark college in New Jersey which had been published in a peace magazine. The discovery was not made until the youth had gone to New York, expenses paid, to receive the prize. The boy, 18 years old, confessed the plagiarism, but could see nothing wrong about it. He had been assigned the subject and had found the printed essay, which he thought was pretty good, though "not so hot." He had first copied it verbatim, then had changed some of the big words. The prize was given to another entrant and the plagiarist was shipped home by plane. Anyway, he had a nice trip.

* * *

PUBLISHERS MUST BE ON their guard constantly against persons who steal the writings of others and try to pass them off as their own. Occasionally the frauds are not discovered until the manuscript has been accepted, published and paid for. Inasmuch as no one can be familiar with more than a minute fraction of what has been written, it is surprising that attempts of this kind are not more often successful.

* * *

THERE IS A STORY OF ONE writer who submitted manuscript after manuscript to one publishing house without having one accepted. Then he copied an essay by Thomas Carlyle and sent that in to see what would happen. Back came the manuscript with the notation that it had some merit, but that the style was too ragged. Many who have read Carlyle would say that the editor's judgment was sound.

* * *

ONE OF THE BIG GARDEN seed firms advises gardeners not to blame the seed if in some cases radishes which they expected to be globe shaped turn out to be long instead of round. It is explained that if the season is dry, the radish root must delve farther into the soil for moisture. One way of checking this tendency is to be sure that the soil contains sufficient humus and that it is thoroughly pulverized and mellow. Unless these properties are present there will be rapid drying and the roots will be misshapen and tough.

A COPY OF THE SAN BENITO, Texas, Daily News contains announcement of the appointment of Frank McCabe as postmaster of



W. P. Davies.

as alderman. The same issue of the paper also announces the forthcoming marriage of Frances, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McCabe, who was to be united to Kermit Beardon, a young Brownsville business man, on Easter Sunday.

* * *

ARE THOSE LITTLE ANIMALS that have been burrowing beneath the snow mice or lemmings? The two are members of the same family, but the description given me of the little animals that are so numerous in some local neighborhoods corresponds more nearly with the published description of the lemming. The Britannica describes the lemming as an animal about 5 inches long, with a roundish head and obtuse muzzle and short tail. One of its characteristic habits is that of making runways under the snow. While the lemmings which have attracted wide attention by their strange migratory habit are confined chiefly to the Scandinavian peninsula, others, closely allied, are found in some parts of this continent, chiefly in the far north.

* * *

WHILE THERE IS STILL doubt as to the identity of the little animals that have been making the runways and which are to be seen in great numbers along some flooded sections in the country, several local families report a veritable plague of mice or other small animals resembling mice. These pests have found their way into buildings where no mice have been seen for years, and one friend reports that though she has baited traps with cheese and other delicacies usually favored by mice, thus far not one has touched the bait.

* * *

ONE OF THE ANECDOTES told of Howard Thurston, the famous magician, who died a few days ago, is that on one occasion he gave an impromptu exhibition in Copenhagen before four kings,

Christian of Denmark, Edward VII of Great Britain, George of Greece and Czar Nicholas of Russia. One of his appropriate tricks was to produce out of "nowhere" a card hand of four kings. When one of his royal audience laughingly insisted that he produce another, he did so. Whereupon the cards were taken from him and photographed by the four monarchs with the sentiment, "for the fifth." Thurston was certainly a king in his line.

* * *

OF THE GREAT MODERN masters of magic, Herman "the great," Houdin, Houdini, who adapted to his own use the name of the older man, whom he admired, Kellar and Thurston, it is impossible to say who was greatest, for each had his own method and may have been considered supreme in his own phase of the art. Houdin was the first top-notch magician whom I ever saw. One of his spectacular tricks was to invite a person in the audience near the front to draw from a deck one card, exhibit it to the audience but not to the magician, replace it in the deck and then throw the deck at Houdin, who stood with a drawn sword ready to receive. The cards fell all around Houdin, who, jabbing at them as they came, pierced the desired card through and held it up in triumph. I suppose it was very simple, but it made a great hit.

* * *

KELLAR SHOWED IN GRAND Forks. His contract called for the boxes, which commanded a close view of the stage, to be unoccupied. During most of his performances local stage help was excluded from the stage, and it was said that some of his feats were as mysterious to his own assistants as to the general public.

* * *

THE GREAT HERMANN NEVER visited Grand Forks, but his nephew, Alexander, did, and the elder magician's widow, Adelaide, "assisted" by appearing on the stage, charmingly gowned, to help create atmosphere. Alexander was clever, but he had neither the skill nor the personality of his great uncle.

* * *

THURSTON TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY in the east and made an exhaustive study of the magic of the Indian experts. At one time he offered a reward of 5,000 rupees to the native magician who would show him a trick that he could not explain. The reward was never claimed. Thurston insisted that the eastern fakers had been greatly overrated and that most of their sensational tricks had been picked up by them at the World's fair in Chicago in 1893.

NOW THAT WINTER IS OVER—let us hope—my friend Milo Waker of Bowesmont, thinks that he is in a position to say "I told



W. P. Davies.

you so." He writes that last fall he predicted a long, hard winter because the birds went south, the rabbits turned white, barnyard fowls molted and the gophers went into winter quarters, all a month earlier than usual. Well, we certainly had a hard winter, whether the birds and beasts knew anything about it or not. We are not having much of a flood, and there is no prospect that there will be one, but there is more water in the river than there has been for several years. Really, it is a pleasure to see it, even if some of the very low land is under water. We have evidence that all the sources of moisture have not dried up, and that the country is not going to become a desert right away.

* * *

SEEDING IS SOMEWHAT later than usual, but where the fields are dry enough to work the soil conditions are excellent. Much of the water from the melting snow soaked into the soil instead of running off, and there should be quick germination and uninterrupted growth. Also, farmers are better equipped for spring work than they were in the early days, and when seeding gets well under way it can be wound up in short order.

* * *

TREES AND SHRUBS ARE giving evidence of life, though it is barely perceptible. But the buds are swelling, and it cannot be long before the dull grays and browns of winter are clothed in the delicate green mist that precedes the bursting forth of leaves. Lilacs are taking their time, which is just as well, for the later the bloom is, the less is the danger of damage by frost. Tulips which have the advantage of shelter from the north winds are making fine growth, and iris, no matter how openly exposed, is putting forth its fresh green leaves.

* * *

THE AUTHORITIES CONSIDER spring the best time to cut back hedges, something which is often

found necessary. Many of the hedge plants tend to grow thin at the base, just where dense growth is desired. The top growth cuts off light from the lower branches and the latter fail to thrive. Caragana can be cut back almost to the ground without injury, and it will make an astonishing growth in a single year. The advantage of cutting back in the spring is that none of the season's growth is wasted.

* * *

FOR CERTAIN LOCATIONS the Russian olive is an excellent hedge plant, but I find that it, too, tends to become top-heavy. I foresee a job of cutting back this spring which will require some muscle. Buckthorn makes a fine hedge and it is easy to keep within bounds. If given proper care it can be kept in dense growth close to the ground. Cotoneaster has also become popular as hedge material, and there are some fine hedges of this material in the city. My experience with this shrub is only with individual plants.

* * *

IF THE LAWN NEEDS TO BE enriched, and lawns do need feeding every little while, commercial fertilizer will be found better than barnyard material for spring use. A fall application of thoroughly rotted and pulverized barnyard fertilizer is excellent for either lawn or garden, but for spring use such material is messy and unsatisfactory. Most of the standard commercial fertilizers will yield good results if properly applied.

* * *

FRESH STABLE MANURE IS excellent fertilizer, being rich in plant food and supplying the soil with the humus which it needs to retain moisture and render it mellow. Such fertilizer may be used usefully around shrubs and on soil where annual flowers, corn and most garden plans are to be grown. But it should not be brought in contact with the roots of perennials, and it should be kept away from root vegetables such as radishes, as in contact with them it is likely to cause rot and scab.

* * *

NOT ALL WELL ROTTED stable manure makes good fertilizer. Some of its volatile elements evaporate rapidly on exposure to the air, and other valuable elements are leached away by rain. What remains may be black, mellow and rich-looking, but next to worthless except for the humus it contains.

A GOOD MANY YEARS AGO the Minnesota counties in the lower Red river valley went heavily into the business of ditching. Lands



W. P. Davies.

east of the valley proper were apt to remain wet until late spring, and there was a great area of marsh and swamp land which it was thought could be farmed advantageously if drained. An ambitious program of drainage was undertaken in order to carry off this excess water as quickly as possible. Water was thus removed from the higher lands of the east, for farmers near the Red river complained that their lands were being inundated by water brought from the farms of their eastern neighbors, the ditches in the lower sections being incapable of carrying the increased flow. Little has been heard of this for some years, because there has been little excess water to carry off. This year, however, the lower valley lands are again flooded, not from the snow which fell upon them, but with water which has been brought from territory farther east.

* * *

IN SOME CASES THE ditches in their lower sections are carrying practically no water at all, being still filled with snow and ice. The flowing water has been backed up by such obstructions after it attained sufficient volume, and then has overflowed onto adjacent fields. The section south of Alvarado is a fair example of what is going on throughout the valley. There veritable lakes cover the fields with an expanse of water which surrounds farm buildings and which is unbroken save by bits of saturated earth which rise a few inches above the water level.

* * *

WHILE THIS CONDITION IS not relished by the farmers, it brings happiness to the wild ducks, thousands of which are floating joyously over fields on which the owners would like to get to work. These birds on their way north have evidently concluded that the Red river valley is a good place to stay. Whether they will travel on a little later or will find nesting places in the vicinity remains to be seen. If they remain for the summer they will find that the lakes on which they are now disporting themselves have dried up.

I HAVE JUST STUMBLLED upon the text of a bill introduced in the house of representatives at Bismarck in the session of 1907 by D. R. Streeter, of Emmons county. The Streeter bill provided that if the editor of any weekly paper in the state referred to the bride in a wedding ceremony as "beautiful," "charming," "the prettiest girl in town," or in terms of similar import, he should be required to prove his statements, or in default should be subjected to the severe pains and penalties provided in the bill. Similar penalties were prescribed for the publication of laudatory statements concerning persons recently deceased unless those statements could be proven. It was not explained why the provisions of the bill did not apply to daily as well as weekly papers.

* * *

LOCAL MEN WHO WERE members of the Grand Forks fire department in 1906 may still wonder who it was that sent in the false alarm calling them to a church on Christmas eve when there was no fire there. Dr. Earl H. Crary, of Cando, makes this confession:

* * *

"I HAVE BEEN READING some articles regarding the Minneapolis fire department that assisted in putting out a blaze of ordinary sunset, and I am reminded of one evening in Grand Forks in the year 1906 in which I called the fire department to what we young fellows thought was a fire in a Lutheran church on Alpha avenue and some other corner which I do not recall.

* * *

"IT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE and the church was having a Christmas celebration in which highly colored lights were used. These strong lights shone through the colored windows to such an extent that all of us thought a fire was in the church building. We all ran to the Y. M. C. A. around the corner and I grabbed the phone and managed to convey the important information to the fire department that this particular church needed a full fire crew immediately.

* * *

"WE RAN BACK TO THE church and waited about two minutes for the fire engine heavily manned to come around the corner. The firemen all ran into the church and interrupted the service, then the chief commenced to look for the person who turned in the alarm. I wanted to tell the chief that it was I who had made the mistake, but my friends said we had better wait for the chief to cool off first. He never knew where the alarm came from."

SOME DAYS AGO IN REFERRING to the arrival at Pasadena of the 200-inch sheet of glass which, when finished, will function as the mirror in the world's largest telescope, I wrote that the glass was to be coated with an aluminum compound. A scientific friend reminds me that the material to be used for this coating will be pure aluminum, and not a compound of that metal. The metal will be sprayed



W. P. Davies. hot over the glass, and to insure perfect results this work must be done in a vacuum. Heretofore silver has been considered the best material for the backing of mirrors, but it has been found recently that pure aluminum is superior for this purpose.

* * *

MY FRIEND ALSO INFORMS me of another fact that makes my head swim. The grinding of the mirror is expected to take about three years as it can be done only a little at a time. If the work were continuous the heat generated by friction with the abrasives would be disastrous. Therefore, after each brief operation time must be given for the slight increase of temperature caused to subside. Now comes the amazing bit. The final stages of the grinding will be done, not with sand, or emery or even with microscopic particles of diamond dust, but with electrons and ions. Can you beat that?

* * *

LONG AGO SCIENTIFIC MEN found that matter is made up of molecules, which are particles of microscopic or sub-microscopic size. Then they discovered that each molecule consisted of atoms, and the atom was long supposed to be the smallest possible unit of matter. But it has been found that the atom itself is a complex structure in which electrons, ions, protons and neutrons behave in ways utterly inexplicable to the layman. Now it appears that these impalpable and invisible electrons and ions, whose very existence can be demonstrated only by the use of higher mathematics, are to be used to polish a piece of glass!

* * *

WHEN THE REPAVING OF Third street and DeMers avenue was under consideration last year there was considerable discussion of the desirability of widening the roadway and corresponding narrowing of the sidewalks in order to make more room for vehicular traffic. Doubtless this would have been done had it not been for the additional cost. Only a few persons recalled that the original driveway was six feet wider than at present and the sidewalks three feet narrower.

* * *

THE STREETS ARE THE usual width of 80 feet from property line to property line. The old wooden walks in that section were 12 feet wide, leaving 56 feet for the roadway. At a meeting of the Commercial club held in March, 1907 the subject of changing these widths was discussed. It was pointed out that some saving could be effected by narrowing the driveway, and it was urged that 50 feet would be ample for vehicles, while more space was needed for pedestrians. It was unanimously decided to recommend this change to the city council, and the pavement was made 50 feet wide. Those were the horse and buggy days. There were fewer vehicles in motion on the streets, and no one at that time anticipated that six or eight feet

of the roadway on each side would be used for all-day storage of automobiles.

* * *

THE DEATH OF GEORGE E. Bachelder in California last winter gives interest to a story told by George Broadhurst, published many years ago. Mr. Bachelder was the moving spirit in the movement which resulted in the building of the Metropolitan theater in Grand Forks, and Broadhurst was the first manager of the house. He was engaged in that capacity while working in Minneapolis, and he began then the career which made him one of the outstanding playwrights and theater managers of the country.

* * *

IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED in an eastern paper Broadhurst told of the amazing enterprise of the men who dared to build a first-class theater away out on the prairie. He had never visited this locality, and was reluctant to take a chance with what he considered a crazy adventure, but when Mr. Bachelder told him that he had engaged the Emma Abbott

company to open the house he decided to come and see what kind of folks we had up here, anyway. He learned that things were being done on no modest scale. Mr. Bachelder had visited the Auditorium theater in Chicago and bought chairs for the new house, duplicates of those in the Auditorium, at \$26 each. He had also duplicated the Auditorium foyer rail for the Met.

* * *

THE OPENING OF THE house was a great social event, and all sorts of publicity stunts were used to arouse interest in it. "Martha" was the opera chosen for the opening, but before that decision was announced a dispute was faked up among prominent citizens over what the opening bill should be. For the subscription sale of tickets Broadhurst called on Captain Griggs, "a man with a fiery red beard." "I'll pay \$300," said Griggs, and if anybody sees that, I'll raise it." Broadhurst then called on "a man named Budge" and told him what Griggs had done. "I'll see that," said Budge. Broadhurst went back to Griggs and reported. "I'll raise him 50 dollars," was the response. An effort to get another raise out of Budge failed. Advance sales brought \$6,000, and \$3,000 was realized from other sales. A souvenir program was printed and nobody could have his name printed in that unless he agreed to pay \$50 for two seats. The opening was a grand success, though Captain Griggs, unaccustomed to grand opera, opera, thought there should have been "less yodeling and more dancing."

LONGSTONE LIGHTHOUSE, off the coast of Northumberland, England, the scene of a heroic exploit nearly a century ago, is again



W. P. Davies.

The lighthouse keeper, Henry Fishburn, was recently taken ill with a poisoned hand. Alone at his post he flew a distress signal for two days, but meanwhile he tended his lights and the usual warning signals were continued. Ultimately Fishburn's distress signal was seen ashore and a lifeboat took him off. Longstone light has been associated with the name of Grace Darling for nearly a century, and students of Canadian schoolbooks of some 60 years ago will remember the story of her heroism that was given in one of their readers. William Darling, the keeper of the lighthouse, was assisted in that work by his daughter, Grace, a young woman of 23. On a September morning in 1838 the "Forfareshire" struck on the Farne islands near by in a violent storm, and 43 of her passengers and crew were swept overboard.

* * *

DARLING AND HIS DAUGHTER sighted the wreck in the distance and determined to go to the rescue of the survivors. There was a chance that they could reach the wreck, but none whatever that they could return without help. They took the chance, reached the wreck, took off four men and a woman, all that their little boat would hold, and with the aid of all hands, got back to the lighthouse. Darling and two of the rescued men made a second trip to the ship, took off the remaining four persons, and worked their way back. Grace and her father became famous and were the recipients of distinguished honors from the government and from humane and other societies. Grace Darling survived that episode only a short time, as she died of consumption four years later.

* * *

IN OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD human life there seems to be no such thing as consistency or proportion. We read of the death in battle of thousands over in Ethiopia, and, while we deplore the slaughter, it makes little impression on us. We read of the loss of other thousands of lives in Chinese floods, and we say that it is too bad, but they are always having

floods in China. Even when death takes its toll in our own country, and hundreds of lives are lost in southern flood or tornado, we are only slightly moved, unless we happen to know persons or localities affected. But when three men are entombed in a mine in an obscure corner of Nova Scotia and all the courage and self-sacrifice of men and all the resources of science are brought to bear to effect their rescue, the whole nation is thrilled and follows eagerly every step that is taken in the race with death.

* * *

A PIECE OF STRING SERVED as the basis of one of Poe's detective stories. Another piece of string has just served to bring another murderer before the bar of justice. In the effort to ascertain the origin of the foot of cord found in the apartment of a murdered woman in New York methods were employed somewhat similar to those used to trace the origin of a piece

of lumber in the ladder used in the Lindbergh kidnaping. Contact was made with every manufacturer of cord in the country, and by a progressive process of elimination it was learned that cord of that exact kind had been sold to an upholsterer in the vicinity. An employe of the establishment who was known to have called at the murdered woman's home on an errand when confronted with evidence that he could not explain made a complete confession. It was that bit of purely circumstantial evidence that fixed the man's guilt upon him. Sound circumstantial evidence is beyond the reach of alibi, perjury and mistaken identity.

* * *

NO OTHER BOOKS RECENTLY published have attracted attention equal to that given to the three books by Nordhoff and Hall, "Mutiny on the Bounty," "Men Against the Sea," and "Pitcairn's Island," the three forming a great dramatic trilogy, some whose outstanding events have since been further depicted on the screen. Another book by the same authors, "Hurricane," tells the story of a great storm that swept the south Pacific many years ago, with tremendous loss of life.

* * *

IN A NEWSPAPER FILE OF March, 1906, I have found an account of a Pacific hurricane which seems likely to have been the one on which the authors based this, their latest story. The story of that storm came to the American press from Papeete, and it told of just such scenes as are described in the authors' work of fiction. Water 30 feet deep swept over some of the islands, and families lashed themselves in the tops of palm trees and remained there for two or three days while the waves rolled beneath them. Several islands were reported to have disappeared permanently, and it was estimated that 10,000 lives had been lost.

THE APRIL NUMBER OF THE U. N. D. Alumni Review has on its cover a fine portrait of Dr. Joseph Kennedy, dean emeritus of the



W. P. Davies.

School of Education, and the number contains an appreciative biographical sketch of Dr. Kennedy by Walter L. Stockwell, former state superintendent of public instruction, who has been a warm and intimate friend of Dr. Kennedy for more than 40 years. The career of Dr. Kennedy

is traced from his student days in the University of Minnesota, through his work as principal of schools at Hillsboro and county superintendent of schools in Traill county and the years which he spent as head of the department of education at the University of North Dakota. Reference is made to the valuable work which he performed as a member of various educational groups in the state, and the article closes with this fine tribute:

* * *

"HE WAS AN EFFECTIVE public speaker, his genial humor and sound common sense provided an excellent and effective combination. He has been a citizen, loyal to the best traditions of our country, a public official influenced by only one motive, that of service to his community. He has always been a good neighbor. In his home, he is true to the highest ideals and surely no one could ask for a truer or better friend. He has always held staunchly to his point of view, both in politics and economics. He is democratic in the best sense. He believes in freedom of thought, speech and conscience. We have known him when intolerance made him a target, when financial reverses weighed heavily, when sorrow took a beloved son and when increasing years and impaired health clearly pointed to his retirement from active work, but the fine, buoyant spirit of Joseph Kennedy has never weakened. He has always been the master of his fate and the captain of his soul. The serenity of these sunset years crowns a life of unusual merit and service."

* * *

SIMPLIFIED SPELLING GOES by fits and starts. The subject attracted greatest attention some 30 years ago when a group of eminent persons constituting the Sim-

plified Spelling Board recommended for general use 300 amended spellings of common English words. While the recommendations were ridiculed in some quarters they were generally given quite serious attention, and while the entire 300 new spellings were adopted by few, if any, publications, there was a general disposition to experiment with some of them.

* * *

THEODORE ROOSEVELT, then president, adopted the innovation with the enthusiasm that characterized whatever he did, and issued orders to the public printer to have the new form used in all publications emanating from the executive offices. For some time the government printers tore their hair over the change, but not even the prestige of Roosevelt was able to overcome the inertia that had settled upon our spelling habits. Roosevelt abandoned the campaign so quietly that nobody noticed his retreat. The Literary Digest still sticks to a few of the amended spellings.

* * *

IN 1906 THE NATIONAL EDUCATION at St. Louis association adopted a resolution recommending the new spelling of the following 12 words: Bizness, enuf, fether, mesure, plesure, red (past tense of read), ruf, tuf, thru, tred, tung, yung. "Thru" is in fairly common use, but the others have dropped out of sight.

* * *

ONE OF THE BIG SEED houses recommends that as a means of insuring quick germination, lettuce seed be stored in a moist state on ice for a few days. For this purpose the seed should be placed between damp cloths and placed on ice. I have never seen that tried, and, in fact, I have never had any trouble with lettuce seed where temperature and soil conditions were right.

* * *

AMATEUR GARDENERS ARE often advised to conserve ground space by planting such quick growers as radishes between the rows of other vegetables which do not mature until late in the season. This can be done, but if done at all it should be with care. If left in the ground too long the temporary crops will rob the permanent ones of moisture and plant food which they need, and the main crop will be ruined in order to save a few feet of space. I once ruined several rows of corn by planting radishes between them and then neglecting to pull up the remaining radishes after their growing season was over. It is a safe rule to give plants plenty of room.

THIRTY YEARS AGO THE papers were flooded with dispatches telling of incidents of the great earthquake and fire which devastated the



W. P. Davies.

city of San Francisco and of prospects for the rebuilding of the city. In that connection I recall the publication of what, I believe, was the first "extra" ever issued by the Grand Forks Herald, and, so far as I know, by any newspaper in North Dakota. The first of the earthquake shocks occurred in the early morning of April 18, 1906, and bulletins arrived early in the day telling us that San Francisco was in flames. The Herald at that time published only a morning edition, holding the morning Associated Press franchise, while the evening franchise was held by the Evening Times, published down street. The A. P. regulations prohibited the publication of Association dispatches by either paper except during the regular publication hours of that paper. Unless the Herald got on the street with the news during the day one of the biggest news articles of a generation would be given first to the public by the Times and the Herald's story would be many hours late. And we couldn't use a scrap of information that came from the Associated Press.

* * *

TODAY THE PROBLEM PRESENTED would have been fairly simple, but it was far from simple then. Publication of an extra was an innovation for which no preparation existed in either mechanical or news departments, and everything had to be improvised. There was no contact with auxiliary news services which could be used in an emergency. And in the financial condition of the paper at that time the question of telegraph tolls was a matter of great importance.

* * *

IN THAT EMERGENCY THE friendship of Don V. Moore proved a valuable asset. In addition to his other duties, Don was at that time operating the Lewis grain commission offices, which were situated just across the hall from the Herald editorial rooms. In addition to the usual market bulletins Don picked from the wire occasional general news bulletins which were sent out from the general offices. At this time Don's wire was loaded with earthquake bulletins. These we were permitted to use. They were dressed up in newspaper form, and with them,

and by drawing conservatively on the services of special correspondents, we were able to present, by mid-afternoon, a thrilling story of the disaster.

* * *

COMPLAINT WAS MADE against the Herald for violation of Associated Press regulations, and the paper was cited to explain. In the absence of satisfactory explanation a heavy fine would have been imposed, but we were able to show that all the information published had been derived from other sources than the Associated Press. On that showing a verdict of "not guilty" was rendered.

* * *

DURING THE SPANISH AMERICAN war there was plenty of occasion for extra editions, and, of course, extras were published hourly by some of the big city papers. But the practice was not followed here. Even such an event as the sinking of Cervera's fleet off Santiago was held by the Herald for its regular edition nearly two days after the battle.

* * *

THAT BATTLE OCCURRED on a Sunday, and rumors of it reached Grand Forks on Sunday afternoon. That the entire Spanish fleet had been destroyed with the loss of only one American life seemed so impossible that the story could not be credited. Trustworthy verification could not be obtained that day, or until Monday forenoon. The Herald published no Monday edition so the news of that decisive battle, which was fought on Sunday, was not given to Herald readers until Tuesday morning.

* * *

A BUSINESS LETTER RECEIVED by a Grand Forks man from Dr. Robert J. Sagerson of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, who attended the late John Vallely in his last illness, reminds one of the fact that other people have troubles, sometimes greater than ours. Dr. Sagerson's offices were on the ground floor of the building which he occupied, with the family's living apartments on the second story. During the flood the lower story was completely submerged and the second story was flooded. Dr. Sagerson writes:

* * *

"OUR CITY IS GETTING BACK to look like a habitable place, but the havoc still shows, as many places are practically ruined. We have mud, and then clouds of choking dust whirling about if the rain or snow ceases. The other night wind at 40 miles an hour hit us and I remained awake, as I thought it would be necessary to move to the cellar. We have been hit rather often, by nature and man. Floods, fires, and the depression, with the closing of the banks, gave us a tremendous beating, but we are phoenixes, I suppose."

THE FLOWERS WILL BLOOM

in the spring, tra-la, whether it is spring weather or not. My neighbor, G. W. Crossman, reports that



W. P. Davies.

his scilla plants have been in bloom for nearly two weeks. It was time for them to blossom, and that just blossomed, regardless of the weather, and their dainty blue blossoms, braving chill winds and untimely snow, help to offset the backwardness of things in general.

The first of my tulips exhibited

itself in full bloom on Saturday, another encouraging case of dogged persistence in spite of adverse circumstances. Several other buds are just ready to open. These are not the dignified Darwins or flamboyant Breeders, which come along later. They are the modest little early fellows, gay enough in color, but short-stemmed. They make a pleasant bit of color before the larger varieties are in bloom. Like the others, they are perfectly hardy, and they thrive under the same treatment.

* * *

A STRAY BIRD WHICH I take to be a junco has been visiting the neighborhood lately. I have had only brief glimpses of it, but it has the smooth, slate-colored head and back of the junco, with lighter breast. Little flocks of juncos, a dozen or so in number, have been reported in other parts of the city, and I suppose there are plenty of them in the woods.

* * *

SMALL FLOCKS OF BLUEBIRDS have been reported several times, and their appearance in flocks has attracted attention, as our bluebirds are usually seen only in pairs. I haven't seen any of these recent arrivals, but I have been told that they are of a species rarely seen here, known as the mountain bluebirds. They are said to range in the western mountain territory and rarely appear on the plains. As described to me these birds are paler in color than the bluebird with which we are familiar, and much larger. One flock of them were at first mistaken for jays, but the mistake was discovered, as the jay is a still larger bird.

OUR AMERICAN ROBIN, SO the books say, belongs to a different group from the English Robin Red Breast which has figured so prominently in song and story. The American robin, and the bluebird, it appears, belong to the thrush family, of which there are several hundred varieties. Early settlers, arriving in the United States from England, found a native bird whose appearance so closely resembled that of the English robin that they called it a robin, and a robin it has been ever since.

* * *

BEFORE LONG THE CHILDREN will be going to school with their hands full of those pretty yellow flowers known as dandelions, and the annual fight on those pests will begin. What to do about dandelions is a problem that has never been solved satisfactorily, so far as I know. A small lawn may be kept reasonably free from them by persistent digging, provided the soil is in a condition for the growth of grass. The stronger the growth of grass, the less chance there is for dandelion seedlings to take hold. Regular application of fertilizer, periodic treatment with sulphate of ammonia to develop in the soil the tinge of acidity which is good for grass and not so good for dandelions, and eternal vigilance in keeping blossoms from going to seed—these seem to be about the most effective means of control. In any case it's a perpetual struggle.

* * *

THIRTY YEARS AGO THE subject of drainage was occupying much attention in the Red river valley. A drainage convention in Grand Forks in March, 1906 was attended by several hundred delegates representing the two Dakotas, Minnesota and Manitoba, and for two days the delegates listened to speeches emphasizing the importance of getting rid of water. James J. Hill, who was one of the speakers, drew a contrast between the fine crops grown on farms just west of the valley, where natural drainage is good, and the crops in the valley, which were often drowned out. He said that a proper system of drainage would add ten dollars an acre to the value of valley farms. That year congress refused to appropriate \$1,000,000 for drainage in the Red river valley. In those days a million dollars seemed like quite a lot of money, even to congress.

A REMARKABLE RECORD IN Freemasonry is that held by William Smeaton, now a resident of Ann Arbor, Michigan, who at the age of 101 years is still enjoying good health. Mr. Smeaton was initiated into Prince Edward lodge, of Picton, Ontario in 1858, and he held the office of Worshipful Master in the years 1861, 1862 and 1864. There is believed to be no other Mason living of like age, with a similar record of service.



W. P. Davies.

This brief record of Mr. Smeaton's Masonic career is given in an announcement of the forthcoming celebration of the 125th anniversary of the founding of Prince Edward lodge just received by Dr. G. M. Williamson, who joined the order while still a resident of Picton, and who still retains membership in the old lodge.

* * *

PRINCE EDWARD LODGE has been in continuous existence since its organization in 1811, and it meets on the same premises which it first occupied 108 years ago. In 1828 an arrangement was made with the Picton school authorities whereby there was constructed on ground owned by the lodge a building to be used for school and lodge purposes. The school district paid the cost of constructing the lower story, which it occupied for school purposes. The lodge carried construction another story, provided the roof, and occupied the second story. While the old building has been replaced by another, joint occupancy is continued under the original terms.

* * *

LETTERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED from Dr. and Mrs. Campbell saying that they expect to reach home on Wednesday of this week after their long southern trip. A card received from the doctor a few days ago was sent from Williamsburg, Virginia, where the old capitol which was the scene of Patrick Henry's famous "Caesar-Brutus" speech is being reconstructed along the original lines. It

was in that building that the Virginia legislature met until the capitol was moved to Richmond in 1779. The Campbells drove through Virginia under ideal conditions of spring weather with all the beauty that goes with it in that beautiful southern state.

* * *

ANOTHER NORTH DAKOTA man, Rev. James Austin, of Hannah, writes from Lynchburg, Virginia, where he has spent the winter with his son-in-law and daughter. Mr. Austin reports temperature 83, with fruit trees in bloom and gardens ablaze with the brilliant coloring of spring flowers.

* * *

TELEVISION, LIKE PROSPERITY, has been just around the corner for some time. And it seems that we are coming pretty close to the corner. The other day in New York television apparatus brought to spectators a distinct view of a fire that was in progress a mile away and which was staged for their benefit. All the details of the blaze, with the firemen at work, speeding cars and massed crowds were faithfully reproduced, together with the characteristic sounds ordinarily heard at a fire.

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THE SHOW WAS PRELIMINARY to the more elaborate field tests that are to be made from the top of the Empire State building in June, where apparatus costing \$1,000,000 will be used in conjunction with Radio City studios. The pictures made with the apparatus now used are 5 by 7 inches. The receiving set looks like an ordinary radio set, but it is much more complicated, being equipped with 33 tubes and 14 knobs. Those in charge of the work say that the immediate developments which they have in mind will require about 18 months, and they say definitely that commercial use of television will not be inaugurated by next fall. The cost of receiving sets is placed at anywhere from \$100 to \$500, but this is merely a guess. No close estimate of cost can be made until plans for production on a considerable scale have been developed. It will be perfectly safe to buy one of the standard radio sets now. It will give a lot of service before television comes our way. Consult our advertisers for models and prices. There is no charge for this mention.

THE OCCASIONAL REFERENCES to lemmings which have appeared in this column have prompted O. T. Bekkems, 510 Sec-



W. P. Davies.

ond avenue North, to write of those curious little animals as he knew them many years ago in his native land, Norway. While there are many varieties of lemmings, and they are found in many parts of the world, it is with the lemmings of the Scandinavian peninsula that

the world is most familiar, because of their migratory habits.

"THE NATIVE PLACE OF THE Scandinavian lemmings," writes Mr. Bekkems, "is in the highest mountain regions, and there they breed in great numbers, as they have from 6 to 10 young at a litter breeding at the age of three months and producing three or four litters a year. They are short and wide, about 5 inches long, and in form resembling a pocket gopher, with large gnawing teeth. The color is yellow with black markings, somewhat like a chipmunk, though the black is not so sharply marked. The tail is very short.

"HEAVY MIGRATIONS OF lemmings are usually 10 to 15 years apart, but there may be minor migrations at intervals of from 5 to 7 years. When the lemmings start they will not go back or turn, but move steadily in one direction. In Norway the movement is usually southwest, west or northwest, depending on the locality. During my life in Norway there were two light and one very heavy migrations of lemmings. The heavy one occurred when I was 12 or 13 years old, and the march near my home was toward the south.

"WHEN STARTED THE ANIMALS will not stop, and if obstructed they will jump on one's shoes, ready to fight. As a rule this ends up with death, as their anger causes them to bleed at the nose, and soon they roll over, dead. The boys thought it great sport to tease them with sticks, when they would soon choke to death.

"LEMMINGS WILL NOT STOP for water, but will go right in to swim a lake or river, and many will never reach the farther shore. When they arrive in the spring they often remain all summer and through the following winter. Then great damage is done to the grass and young trees, as they eat the grass roots, leaving the dry, dead grass loose on the surface like a covering of shaff or fresh cut hay. This damage is done mostly where there are a few small trees, out on the edge of the forest, though some damage is done in the open fields as well. In addition to destroying the grass the lemmings eat bark of young trees, leaving dead birch, aspen and willows as evidence of their destructive habits.

"WITH THE LEMMINGS COME great numbers of foxes, mink, weasels, owls and hawks, which thus have plenty of food. While the migrations take most of the lemmings from the mountains, a few are always left, and these produce fresh swarms for the next migration. Migrations in northern and southern Norway occur at different times."

AN IRISH MAID, NOW 86 years old, has served several generations of the same family on Long Island, New York, continuously for 66 years. She is neither a seamstress nor a good cook, but the family couldn't get along without her.

HERE ARE SOME VERSES written for an eastern paper by a lady who hasn't any use for parsley:

SPRIG FEVER.
By Margaret Fishback.
Parsley, parsley, everywhere
On my daily bill of fare.

See that kippered herring staring
At the silly sprig he's wearing.

Be it steak or creamed potatoes,
Oyster plant or grilled tomatoes.

Squash or scrambled eggs or
scrod—
Each must wear its little wad;

Each must huddle underneath
Its accursed parsley wreath.

Parsley, parsley, everywhere.
Damn! I want my victuals bare.